

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 274948
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:RPERITO:WLT

APPROVED BY S/S-O:RPERITO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 274948

NODIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI

FOL RPT CAIRO 19107 ACTION SECSTATE INFO TEL AVIV JERUSALEM
16 NOV 77 QUOTE

S E C R E T CAIRO 19107

NODIS

FOR ASST SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: QGH ERNIS US

SUBJ: BEGIN'S INVITATION TO SADAT

REF: STATE 274416

1. APPRECIATE SAM LEWIS' CONCERNS, BUT BELIEVE ADVICE
YOU HAVE GIVEN IS ONLY SENSIBLE COURSE IN CIRCUMSTANCES. PERHAPS
ISRAELIS WOULD BE DISTURBED IF THEY KNEW WE HAVE WITHHELD FROM
SECRET

SECRET

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THEM OUR ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF DATE OF SADAT VISIT, BUT I THINK
IN THIS INSTANCE WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO PLAY FAIR WITH
EGYPTIANS AS WELL AS ISRAELIS AND FACT IS SADAT HAS ASKED US TO
WAIT UNTIL HE GETS BACK AND ANNOUNCES RECEIPT INVITATION AND
HIS REPLY. THIS, IT SEEMS TO ME, IS HIS RIGHT. AFTER ALL, WE HAVE
MANY EXCHANGES WITH ISRAELIS ABOUT WHICH WE SAY NOTHING TO EGYPTIANS
AND THIS IS ALSO FAIR ENOUGH.

2. I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH YOUR HAVING AUTHORIZED LEW IS TO TELL
BEGIN OF SADAT'S DESIRE (NOT JUST PREFERENCE) RE ANNOUNCEMENT AND
HOPE IT WILL BE RESPECTED. IF IT IS NOT AND ISRAELIS SEEK TO MAKE
THIS A PUBLIC RELATIONS GIMMICK, IT WILL SOUR THE WHOLE AFFAIR.
WHAT IS NEEDED RIGHT NOW IS THE
DEVELOPMENT OF A MODICUM OF LONG DISTANCE CONFIDENCE BETWEEN SADAT
AND BEGIN. AT THE
MOMENT THE BALL IS IN BEGIN'S COURT TO RECOGNIZE THIS AND WAIT UNTIL
SADAT MAKES HIS ANNOUNCEMENT. THINGS ARE GOING WELL UP TO NOW AND
OUGHT NOT TO BE SOURED BY PREMATURE ISRAELI ANNOUNCEMENTS. I WILL
HAVE TO GET BACK FROM ISMAILIA TOMORROW AFTERNOON BEFORE BEING
ABLE TO REPORT, BUT WILL DO SO AS SOON AS I
POSSIBLY CAN.

3. AGREE IT DESIRABLE LEVEL WITH BEGIN RE PROPOSED DATE SADAT'S
VISIT, SO LONG AS HE RESPECTS THIS CONFIDENCE. WITH A BIT OF RE-
STRAINT AND CARE, BOTH BEGIN AND SADAT COULD HAVE A DRAMATIC AND
HISTORIC EVENT AND I AM CONFIDENT BEGIN ALSO UNDERSTANDS THIS.
PREMATURE PUBLICITY COULD SPOIL THE WHOLE EXERCISE, BUT LET US HOPE
THIS WILL NOT HAPPEN. IF IT DOES, SADAT WILL FEEL NOT ONLY THE
ISRAELIS, BUT WE TOO HAVE LET HIM DOWN.
EILTS

UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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ISecure: 2
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